

## **Student Life Committee Minutes September 17, 2003**

**Members Present:** Duane Hulbert, Cat Griffin, Dave Scheinfeld, Mark Harpring, Barry Bauska, Cara Evans, Kurt Walls, Keith Ferguson, Betsy Gast; Carrie Washburn and Kris Bartanen, *ex officio*.

This initial meeting was convened by Carrie Washburn; after introductions of members present, we elected, unanimously, Duane Hulbert as our chair.

It was decided that minute-taking should rotate among the membership on an alphabetical basis—to start today with Bauska.

Most of this day's work revolved around a review of the charges to the committee; those charges (slightly amended from the Senate's wording) are as follows:

1. To continue to explore ways to encourage campus conversations aimed at promoting greater responsibility, accountability and civility on campus.
2. To provide commentary and response to the revised Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities if that document is in fact forthcoming.
3. To examine sophomore programs (in particular, support for transitions peculiar to the sophomore year).
4. To examine and suggest ways in which models of civic and/or intellectual accomplishment can be highlighted.
5. To improve publicity procedures on campus (for example, standardizing the computer programs being used in various publicity offices).
6. To explore the relationship of student life and Facility Services (it has been suggested that the efforts of facility services are often unappreciated by students).

In reviewing the charges, we spent some time looking at each of the topics in turn, assessing what has happened so far, and perhaps what kinds of things might happen to improve each situation.

### **Item #1:**

There was a considerable discussion here about "program-awareness" (trying to make sure that students --and presumably faculty and staff as well--are aware of various programs that do exist). Some of these programs happen in orientation; others are scattered throughout the school year. We talked about how to make information and resources more readily available through more efficient publicizing of events.

It was noted that the Student Life Committee last year addressed a concern about the relationship between students and Security Services—a concern that arose out of a number of situations involving conflicts between students and Security Services, and in particular, a "disruptive Midnight Breakfast" held in May 2002. After meetings last year with Todd Badham (Director of Security Services) and with student focus groups, the Committee offered several recommendations, including one that perhaps the name—Security Services—might be changed to Safety Services, as more accurately reflecting the function of that office, and as a way of lessening the "policing" impression of the existing title.

Kris Bartanen also noted that Security Services had initiated a number of crime-awareness workshops with RA's; a proposal was made at our meeting to encourage such workshops or presentations with residence groups as a whole.

In sum, there is a desire that we continue to explore ways in which topics of individual freedoms and community responsibility might be further discussed.

### **Item #2:**

The consensus was that the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities is currently in limbo; there is no known “pulse” to this entity within the Student Senate. We shall wait to see if the patient is revived.

Item #3:

Kris Bartanen introduced this topic by suggesting that Sophomores may be the “forgotten class” (between the orientation-intensive First Year and the major-intensive and graduation-focused Junior and Senior years). She noted that the university had received a Mellon Grant to investigate what kinds of programs might be of use to Sophomore students. She also reported that five groups of last spring’s First Year Seminars had a kind of reunion this fall (linked to the David Halberstam lecture); attendance proved to be sparse.

Student commentary suggested that most students *don’t* especially feel a need for more attention to them as they become sophomores. While they might like a bit more academic guidance (which clearly drops off from the first year), most of the comments suggested that non-first year students tend to identify themselves as “upper classmen” generally, rather than specifically as sophomores.

Item #4:

There was a review of programs that were presented last year, including an idea for an “Alumni Hall of Fame,” and a desire to survey and review similar programs being planned or currently scheduled for this year.

Item #5:

Cara Evans and Kris Bartanen reported that ASUPS had worked throughout the summer to begin development of a web-based calendar system, built upon the base of the University’s Master Calendar, and allowing for students, faculty and staff to add items to it as the year unfolds. This new calendar system is already functioning, but will not replace the university master calendar right away (and indeed the existence of this new service is not yet widely known). Clearly this system is in the process of changing and evolving.

Item #6:

Some meetings were suggested between Facility Services personnel and students (and perhaps our committee) to work toward better interactions. There was an implied sense that some Facility Service employees feel themselves ignored by students, and wonder if they are viewed as a kind of “servant class” by those students.

As 9:00 approached, the meeting was adjourned, and we all sped off to our classes and other obligations.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for 8:00 am, Wyatt 226, on Wednesday, October 1.

Sincerely,  
Barry Bauska

[bbauska@ups.edu](mailto:bbauska@ups.edu)